

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 1, June 27th, 1996

News and notes from the inquest into the deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

(1) Day one - presiding coroner grants standing to Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH) on first day of homeless inquest

The Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness requested full standing at the inquest on behalf of its more than two dozen members. The presiding coroner arbitrarily ruled that only six agencies within the coalition will be given standing. Peter Rosenthal is the lawyer representing TCAH at the inquest.

(2) Presiding coroner announces his ruling on the scope of the inquest

The presiding coroner has severely limited the scope of the inquest. Despite evidence from a number of expert witnesses and arguments from the coalition's counsel, the coroner won't allow evidence about affordable housing and supportive housing to be raised at the inquest. The coroner has limited the issues at the inquest to: the availability of beds in hostels and the barriers to their use; the availability of beds in detox centres; alcoholism and the homeless; and mental illness as it pertains to the men who died and homeless in general.

(3) Serious flaws in police investigation of homeless deaths

The evidence - and lack of evidence - presented on day one showed that the police had not conducted a rigorous investigation into the homeless deaths.

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(4) Inquest agenda

For Thursday, June 27th, only, the inquest begins at 9 a.m. and runs to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

For Friday, June 28th, (and every Friday throughout the inquest), the inquest begins at 9.30 a.m. and runs to 12 noon.

On Monday, July 1st, there will be no inquest due to the Canada Day holiday.

On weekdays during the duration of the inquest, the hearings will begin at 9.30 a.m. and will run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.

Every day during the lunch break, TCAH will serve a free lunch. Most days, there will be speakers or other special events planned for the lunch break.

(5) Scheduled witnesses for Thursday, June 27th

Three witnesses are expected: Dr. Chiasson, a forensic pathologist; Ken Syrette from the Anishnawbe Street Patrol; and Dr. Paula Goering, from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry.

(6) Come on out!

Homeless people, their friends and allies are encouraged to attend the inquest.

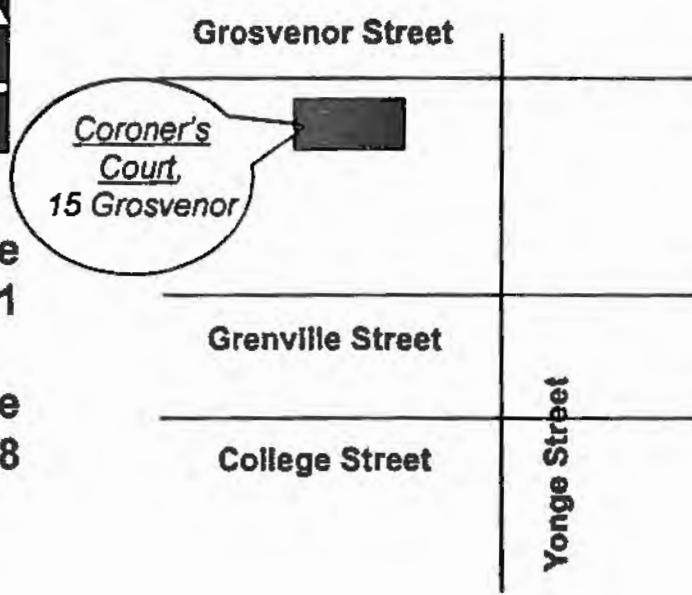
**Free lunch every week
day at about 12.30 p.m.**

For information:

**Cathy Crowe
416-703-9511, ext. 21**

**Beric German, Alicia Odette
416-921-8668**

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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 2, June 28th, 1996

News and notes from the inquest into the deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

(1) Day two (Thursday) - second day of homeless inquest hears evidence about the freezing deaths of the three men

The pathologist presented technical reports and evidence regarding the causes of death of the three men. There was a long description of how the men were found. It was a stark reminder of the real life tragedy that the deaths represented.

(2) Mental health expert testifies

Dr. Paula Goering from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry provided evidence on the links between homelessness and mental health. Even though the presiding coroner has ruled that housing is not relevant at the homeless inquest, Dr. Goering testified about research which shows that homeless people want housing. (*Editor's note - Don't believe the experts? Ask any homeless person!*). She said that Metro's Hostel Outreach Program was developed following the inquest into the death of Drina Joubert, a homeless women who died in 1985. Dr. Goering continues Friday.

(3) Police won't release photos of three men

The lawyer for the Toronto Coalition Against Homeless, Peter Rosenthal, is continuing to press the police for photos of the three men. Many homeless people are not known by their given names. It is evident that the police investigation was

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shoddy and didn't include taking around the pictures. TCAH members have offered to assist the inquest by taking photos to drop-ins, soup kitchens and other community locations, but the police have refused to release pictures.

(4) Inquest agenda

For Friday, June 28th, (and every Friday during the inquest), the inquest begins at 9.30 a.m. and runs to 12 noon. On Monday, July 1st, there will be no hearing due to the Canada Day holiday.

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 a.m. and will run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. Every day during the lunch break, TCAH will serve a free lunch. On some days, there will be speakers or other special events planned for the lunch break.

(5) Homeless inquiry report available from Toronto City Hall

The detailed report from the panel that presided at TCAH's Community Inquiry Into Homelessness has been received by the City of Toronto's Board of Health. If you'd like a copy, contact the City Clerk at 416-392-7025, or fax your request to 416-392-1879. The full document will be posted on the worldwide web very soon - watch for details!

(6) Come on out!

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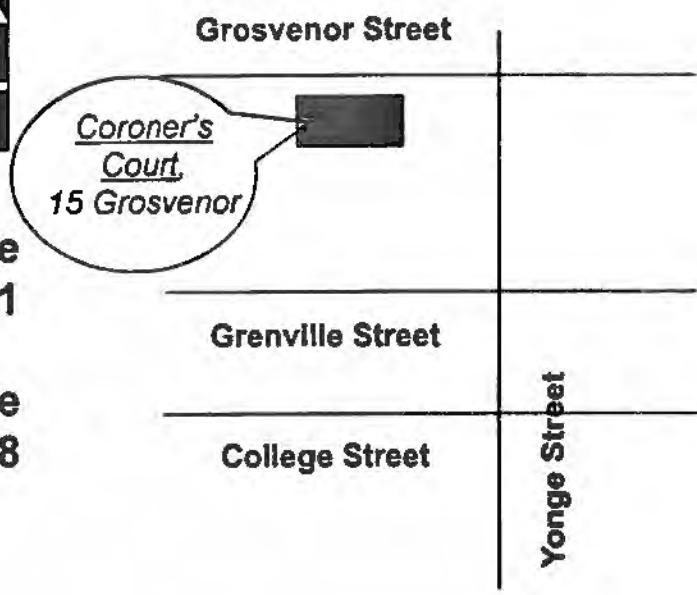
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INQUEST UPDATE

No. 3, July 1st, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Police probe of deaths grossly inadequate, coalition launches its own “wanted” campaign

On Tuesday, July 2nd, the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness launched its own investigation into the lives - and deaths - of the three men at the centre of the inquest. By the end of the first week of the homeless inquest, it was clear that the police investigation was grossly inadequate. "Not only did the police, who were supposed to conduct a thorough investigation, neglect key procedures, but they also missed critical evidence," says Michael Shapcott, a coalition member.

TCAH's campaign includes circulating a "wanted" poster to soup kitchens, drop-in centres, health agencies and other places frequented by homeless people.

Crown attorney silences her own star witness three times on day three of homeless inquest

Dr. Paula Goering, a psychiatric nurse and researcher at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, was silenced not once, not twice, but three times, by the crown attorney during day three of the homeless inquest - even though Dr. Goering was called by the crown and was supposed to be her star witness to set the "foundations" of the

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homeless issues at the start of the inquest. Dr. Goering provided evidence of a Texas study that showed that inadequate social assistance rates were among the factors contributing to homelessness. When TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal asked her to elaborate, the crown attorney immediately objected. At several points in her testimony, Dr. Goering used her expertise to draw the links between homelessness and lack of affordable and supportive housing. Once again, the crown attorney objected when Rosenthal asked her to elaborate.

In both interventions, she insisted that the issues of social assistance rates and affordable housing were not relevant to the inquest. Of course, if she had allowed her own expert witness to proceed, perhaps the relevance of those two issues could have been established.

In both cases, the coroner upheld the crown and prohibited Dr. Goering from answering the questions. The crown attorney is obviously determined to severely limit the scope of the inquest, even if it means gagging her own expert witnesses.

Inquest agenda

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 a.m. and will run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. Every day during the lunch break, TCAH will serve a free lunch. On some days, there will be speakers or other special events planned for the lunch break.

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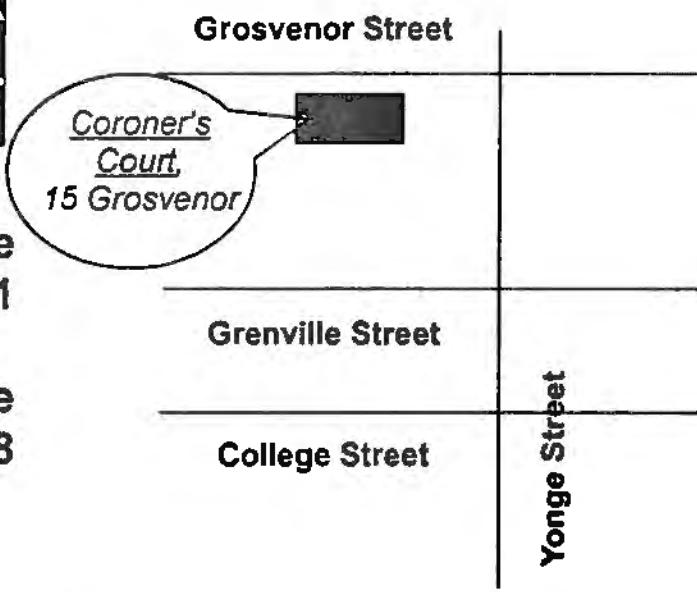
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- ☛ Why wouldn't the coroner make the simple request to the immigration department to press a few keys on their computer and produce a printout of Kompani's records?
- ☛ What other evidence will the inquest jury not be allowed to hear?

On the witness stand Wednesday, July 3rd:

Three witnesses are expected to be called by the crown attorney (although not all may make it to the witness stand):

- a staff member from Seaton House, Metro's biggest hostel for single men.
- James Froh from the Anishnawbe Health Street Patrol, a TCAH member.
- Gaetan Heroux from Central Neighbourhood House, a TCAH member.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

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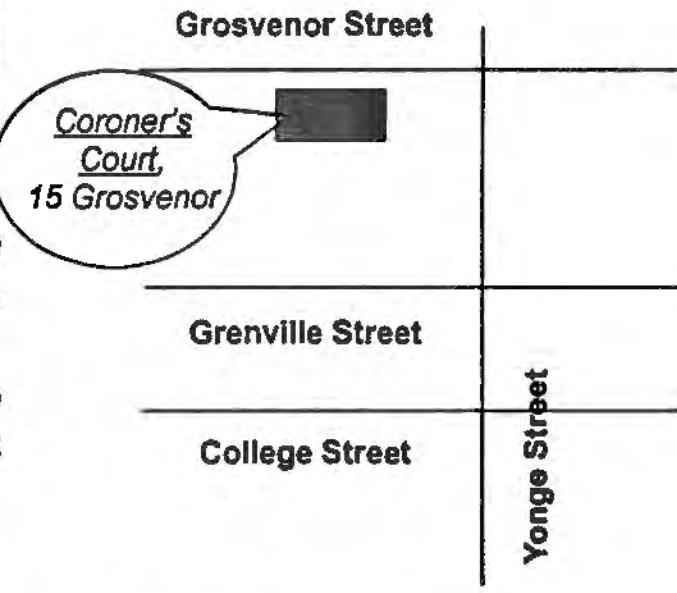
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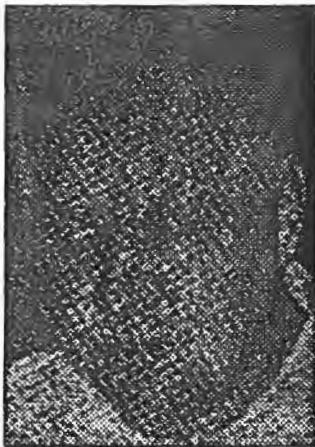
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WANTED

information on the lives of:

**Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani,
Eugene Upper**



Irwin Anderson



**Mirsalah-Aldin
Kompani (1985)**



**Eugene Upper
no photo available**

Early in 1996, these three homeless men froze to death in Toronto. A coroner's inquest began on June 26th, but it is clear that the police investigation is inadequate. The Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness, which represents more than two dozen groups working with homeless people, is launching its own information into the lives - and deaths - of these three men.

*O Did you know these men? O Did they visit your agency?
O Did you speak to them? O Did you provide services?*

***Please contact Cathy Crowe of the Toronto Coalition
Against Homelessness - 416-703-9511, ext. 21.
Please call any time 24-hours-a-day.***

A note on privacy: we are not asking for details in health or other confidential records. If there is evidence in your records that may be relevant, please contact the coalition and we will pass along your name and contact information to the authorities for further investigation.

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 4, July 2nd, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Inquest juror asks: **Why can't we hear critical information?**

One juror, who said that he was speaking on behalf of all five members of the jury at the homeless inquest, stopped proceedings on Tuesday (day four of the inquest) when he asked the presiding coroner why the jury was not allowed to hear all of the evidence of Dr. Paula Goering, a psychiatric nurse and researcher at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. It was a stunning development in an inquest that is less than one week old, but has already had a number of twists and turns.

Dr. Goering was silenced three times by the crown attorney last Friday - even though Dr. Goering was called by the crown and was supposed to be her star witness. Dr. Goering provided evidence of a Texas study that showed that inadequate social assistance rates were among the factors contributing to homelessness. When TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal asked her to elaborate, the crown attorney immediately objected. Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg

upheld the crown and prohibited Dr. Goering from answering Rosenthal's question.

**We need you at the
inquest! Please come to
the Coroner's Court, 15
Grosvenor Street.**

See page 3.

On Tuesday, the juror - on behalf of his colleagues - asked why the jury had been prevented from hearing about the macro and

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micro causes of homelessness (what Dr. Goering called the "pathways" to homelessness). The crown attorney replied that the inquest was "bound by the Coroner's Act" and "bound by the facts that arise out of the deaths of the three individuals". She said welfare was not an issue in the three deaths - even though a crown witness later Tuesday raised a possible welfare connection with Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani (*see next story*).

The puzzled juror reminded the crown attorney that Dr. Goering was allowed to give detailed testimony about the Hostel Outreach Program - even though there is no evidence any of the men had any connection with that program. The crown replied that a recommendation from the jury regarding welfare "would not be helpful" in preventing homeless deaths in the future.

Not suppressing anything, insists presiding coroner, as he prohibits evidence from immigration computer

Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg chastised TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal on Tuesday for suggesting that evidence was being suppressed. Moments later, Dr. Naiberg vetoed Rosenthal's request for computer records from Canada's immigration department.

The request came after a Canada immigration officer, called by the crown attorney to give evidence about the immigration records of Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, one of the men who froze to death. The immigration officer confirmed that a note in Kompani's immigration file had the words "welfare application" and included a reference to the department's computer system. The official said that there may be additional information in the computer system on Kompani. When Rosenthal requested that the immigration officer be directed to provide a computer printout, the crown attorney - who acts as "counsel to the coroner" during the inquest - objected strenuously. Earlier in the day, in answer to a query from a juror, the crown had said that there was "no issue" regarding welfare for any of the three dead men. In response to Rosenthal's request for the computer records, the crown once again objected. Rosenthal suggested that there was an attempt to "suppress" certain evidence, prompting coroner Naiberg to make his angry denial. Ironically, after a short recess, Dr. Naiberg returned to the coroner's court to rule that the computer records would not be produced.

Three questions to ponder:

- ☛ Why do the presiding coroner and the crown attorney continue to silence crown witnesses when they attempt to give evidence about welfare or affordable and supportive housing?

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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE!

No. 5, July 3rd, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

100 or more sleeping under Gardiner Expressway **Huge increase in numbers of homeless**

Recent cuts to welfare and the growing housing crisis are leading to a shocking increase in the numbers of homeless in Toronto. That was the testimony of James Froh, co-ordinator of Anishnawbe Street Patrol, on day five of the homeless inquest.

His evidence came as a breakthrough in an inquest that has, to date, been marked by repeated attempts by the coroner and crown attorney to silence their own witnesses when they draw links between the growing homeless population and the root causes of homelessness, such as welfare cuts and the housing crisis.

Anishnawbe Street Patrol, one of more than two dozen members of the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness, provides basic necessities to homeless people. Froh testified that his patrols have seen a 70% increase in the numbers of homeless, compared to two years ago. One hundred or more people sleep under the Gardiner Expressway alone, he said. Anishnawbe has found people living in manholes and "places you can't imagine". Homeless people are suffering catastrophic health concerns, including cold exposure and hypothermia in the winter, sunstroke and severe burns in the summer, malnutrition and chronic sleep deprivation. Anishnawbe patrols see young children and pregnant women on the street.

"We must stem the flow of homelessness," said Froh. Among the key factors leading to homelessness are a growing number of evictions - up 25% in Metro alone, he said. Since last

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October's 21.6% cut in welfare rates, many people are unable to keep their housing and are now homeless, he testified. Metro is continuing to lose affordable housing and there is a critically low vacancy rate of less than one per cent. Froh noted that proposed changes to tenant protection laws will make the situation more desperate.

He described the experience of homelessness as like being in a "strange land". People are distant from their family, friends and community. They find themselves in "strange homes", including day-time drop-in centres and overnight hostels. Their families become people like the Street Patrol. After hours of powerful and moving testimony, Froh made a direct appeal to the five inquest jurors. "As a society, we are being faced with decisions about how the most vulnerable are to be treated. This is your opportunity to give advice." At one point, he asked a juror: "If you had a 22% cut in your take-home pay, could you afford to stay housed where you are now?" The juror answered quietly: "Probably not".

Also on the witness stand: Ken Davies from Dixon Hall (a TCAH member), who spoke about Dixon's innovative shelter for homeless men. His testimony continues Thursday. Others expected on Thursday are a representative from Seaton House, Toronto's biggest men's hostel; and Gaetan Heroux, from Central Neighbourhood House (a TCAH member).

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 a.m. and will run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at around noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH will serve a free lunch. On some days, there will be speakers or other special events planned for the lunch break. Everyone is welcome to come on out!

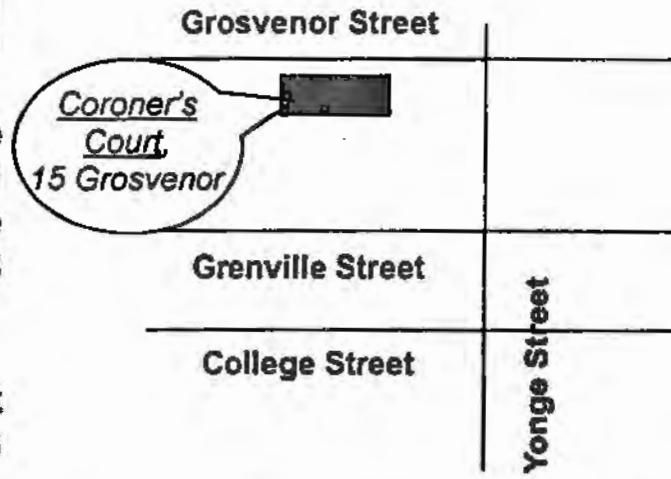
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An interesting fact

Housing and welfare shouldn't be part of Toronto's homeless inquest, according to presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg. The biggest developments in both housing and welfare in recent months have been at the provincial level - the cancellation of more than 17,000 units of affordable housing by the Harris government last summer, and the 21.6% cut to welfare rates by Harris last October. The coroner's office is part of that *same* provincial government - a branch of the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General and Correctional Services.

"One is too many" comes to Toronto Board of Health

One is too many, the detailed report of TCAH's public inquiry into homelessness in late May, is coming to the Toronto Board of Health for deputations on Thursday, July 11th, at 1.45 p.m. in Committee Room #4 at City Hall. Call the clerk at 416-392-7025 to reserve your spot to make a deputation. *It's important that all TCAH members, friends and allies make their voices heard at the board of health.*

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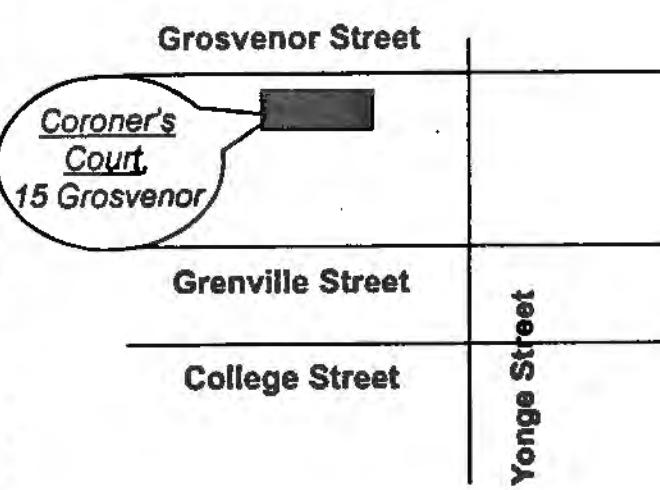
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE!

No. 6, July 4th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

*Presiding coroner angrily demands: Don't use the "h*****" word anymore!*

Homelessness in Toronto is directly connected to the city's housing crisis - that was part of the sworn testimony of Ken Davies from the Dixon Hall shelter for homeless men on day six of the homeless inquest. However, when Peter Rosenthal, lawyer for the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH), asked Davies to elaborate on his evidence, presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg immediately stepped in to stop evidence of the links between homelessness and housing from being put before the coroner's jury.

It's not the first time that Dr. Naiberg has silenced crown witnesses at the inquest, but the coroner was extremely harsh in his ruling against Rosenthal on Thursday. He even hinted that he might take sharp action against Rosenthal if the TCAH lawyer continues to question witnesses at the homeless inquest about housing.

The presiding coroner knows of sworn testimony that housing was a critical issue in the death of Irwin Anderson, even though he says there is "no evidence" before the inquest that housing is an issue.

Dr. Naiberg justified his extraordinary attempts to keep housing out of the homeless inquest by stating that there is no evidence before the inquest that housing was an issue in the lives of the three homeless men who froze to death. There is a self-fulfilling element to Dr. Naiberg's actions since, as long as he keeps silencing crown witnesses when they talk about housing, then - of course - there will be little evidence of housing at the inquest.

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Dr. Naiberg knows that housing was a critical issue for at least one of the dead men, Irwin Anderson. Dr. Naiberg presided over a pre-inquest hearing where he heard sworn evidence from Jimmy Groat of Aboriginal Legal Services. Under oath, Groat testified that Anderson had been housed for five years before his death. However, Anderson was unable to hold onto his housing, he was evicted and later died homeless on Toronto's streets. On Thursday, Rosenthal asked the coroner to bring Groat to the witness stand to repeat his evidence about Anderson. The crown attorney opposed this request. Dr. Naiberg is expect to issue a ruling on Friday at 9.30 a.m.

Housing came up during Davies' evidence as he spoke about the transition from homelessness to housing. At the Dixon shelter, some men move into a special transitional program that prepares them for permanent housing. Davies tried to talk about plans by Dixon Hall (a TCAH member) to convert its short-term hostel into a long-term, non-profit housing project. Dixon spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in developing plans. The shelter received the go-ahead from the City of Toronto and also preliminary approval from the Ontario Ministry of Housing. However, the project was cancelled by the Harris government last July - along with close to 400 other non-profit and co-op housing projects that would have been home to more than 17,000 households. The presiding coroner stopped Davies from giving details about Dixon's housing project.

There was a brief skirmish when the crown attorney tried to silence Davies on welfare. The presiding coroner has ruled that he didn't want any evidence put before the jury on welfare, even though all three homeless men were in the welfare system. Dr. Naiberg silenced an earlier witness, Dr. Paula Goering from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, when she provided evidence of a Texas study that identified welfare rates as a contributing factor to homelessness. Dr. Naiberg allowed Davies to give some evidence about welfare, but not the catastrophic effect that the provincial government's 21.6% cut in welfare last fall has had on homeless people.

After Davies finished, Bill Cerovic from Seaton House, the biggest hostel for homeless men in Canada, took the stand. Cerovic is expected to be on the stand throughout the morning on Friday and perhaps into Monday.

TCAH moves to increase its standing

TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal made a formal request to the coroner to expand the coalition's standing at the inquest. On the first day of hearings last week, coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg artificially divided the coalition by ruling that only six of the more than two dozen groups that are part of TCAH would receive formal standing. Rosenthal argued that other member groups should be recognized, especially health care agencies and day-time drop-in shelters (which work on alcohol and mental health issues - two of the issues which Dr. Naiberg has included within the scope of the inquest). The coroner's ruling is expected at 9.30 a.m. on Friday.

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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 7, July 7th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Dr. Naiberg suppresses key evidence: Presiding coroner announces his verdict before the inquest is even half complete!

In a dramatic ruling on Friday (day seven of the homeless inquest), presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg not only announced his verdict before the inquest is even half complete, but he also suppressed key evidence about Irwin Anderson. "Irwin Anderson was the author of his own misfortune," said Naiberg, to justify his ruling to bar evidence from Jimmy Groat of Aboriginal Legal Services that Anderson was homeless because he had been evicted from his housing. Naiberg heard the sworn testimony in a pre-inquest hearing, but he is refusing to allow the inquest jury - which wasn't present at the earlier session - to hear the evidence.

"It's shocking to consider, but Dr. Naiberg would rather blame Irwin Anderson for his own death, than allow the full story - the true story - to come out in open court," says Cathy Crowe, from the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness.

Toronto's homeless inquest began on June 26th and is expected to run for several weeks. The five-member jury is supposed to hear evidence about the deaths of three homeless men - Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper - who died on Toronto's streets last winter. The jury is to determine the circumstances of the deaths and make recommendations to prevent similar deaths. But Naiberg has been busy from the beginning blocking a full and fair hearing. In addition to suppressing the evidence from Aboriginal Legal Services, Naiberg has

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silenced crown witnesses - including Dr. Paula Goering from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, and Ken Davies from Dixon Hall - when they have tried to provide evidence about the links between homelessness and housing, and between homelessness and social assistance. Naiberg justifies his extraordinary actions by stating that there is no evidence before the inquest that housing and welfare were issues in the lives of the three men who died - even though he acknowledges that all three men were in the welfare system. There is a self-fulfilling element to Naiberg's actions since, as long as he keeps silencing witnesses and barring key evidence, then - of course - there will be little evidence of housing at the inquest.

At the inquest on Monday, Bill Cerovic from Seaton House, the biggest hostel for homeless men in Canada, will continue his testimony.

Naiberg says "no" to full standing for TCAH

Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg won't allow all the members of the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness to have full standing at the inquest because he says that housing, health care and drop-in agencies that work daily with Toronto's homeless don't have a "direct and substantial interest" in the homeless inquest. On the first day of hearings last week, Naiberg artificially divided the coalition by ruling that only six of the more than two dozen groups that are part of TCAH would receive formal standing.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

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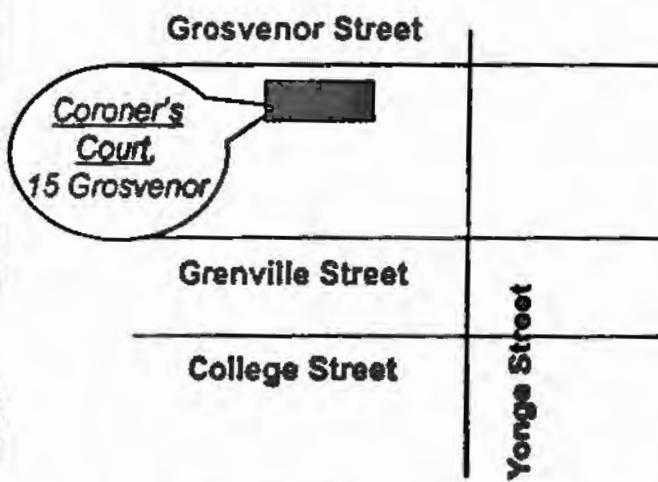
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 8, July 8th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Testimony magically transforms men's hostel: Welcome to Club Seaton, "refuge" for homeless!

Seaton House, the biggest hostel for homeless men in Canada, was magically transformed into Club Seaton, a "refuge" that features "deluxe cottages", during testimony by Bill Cerovic on day eight of Toronto's homeless inquest. Cerovic, a management representative, sketched a picture of the homeless shelter that left many of the homeless and formerly homeless observers in the coroner's court shaking their heads in wonder. Seaton is owned and managed by Metro Toronto. It has been frequently criticized as being dirty, crowded and violent.

"We offer a refuge," said Cerovic. He outlined social activities, including ball hockey, baseball games, dances at nearby Fudger House, bingo, euchre, horseshoes, games, television, movies, pool tables and even barbecues in High Park. Seaton's tuck shop features the cheapest cigarettes in Toronto. Seaton is an all-inclusive hostel, he said, except for toothpaste and toothbrush - available cheap at the tuck shop.

Cerovic spoke about the three parts of Seaton: a "basic hostel"; "deluxe cottages" shared with 30 other men; and higher-level care at the men's residence, which costs \$589 a month. Seaton includes a 13-bed medical unit (but no medical staff after 10 a.m.), plus a dining room.

Stop the cover-up at inquest

**Tuesday, July 9th
rally at 11.45 a.m. at
All Saints Church,
(Dundas and Sherbourne)
march to coroner's court**

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's Inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

"It's very pleasant," said Cerovic. His description contrasts sharply with the harsh reports that are made by homeless people who stay at the hostel, who often refer to it as "Satan House" or "the range" (a nickname used by prisoners for jail). Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg refused to allow Peter Rosenthal, lawyer for the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness, to question Cerovic about Seaton's extensive barring list - the long list of people banned from Seaton for a matter of days, weeks or longer. "There's no evidence that any of the three men (who died) were barred from Seaton House," he said.

Irwin Anderson - evicted when he held back his rent

Irwin Anderson, one of the three homeless men who died last winter whose deaths are at the centre of Toronto's homeless inquest, had worked most of his life, according to evidence that emerged at the inquest. He stopped paying rent on the advice of a relative after his stove stopped working (withholding rent to force a landlord to make necessary repairs is permitted under Ontario's *Landlord and Tenant Act*, but can lead to eviction if a tenant is not careful).

Although he was only a relatively small amount behind in rent, he was evicted, padlocks put on his door, and his belongings were thrown in a dumpster. After being homeless, he ended up in Metro's hostel system, staying at Seaton House. On the day Anderson died, he would have been asked to turn over virtually his entire family benefits (welfare) cheque to Seaton House.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings usually begin at between 9.30 and 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at around noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch. On some days, there are speakers or other special events planned. Everyone is welcome to come on out!

Free lunch every week day at about 12.30 p.m.

For information about TCAH:

Cathy Crowe
416-703-9511, ext. 21
Beric German, Alicia Odette
416-921-8668

Or send a fax note to:

Michael Shapcott
416-366-3876

Grosvenor Street

Coroner's
Court
15 Grosvenor

Grenville Street

College Street

Yonge Street

(Continued from page 2)

soup and sandwiches, pizza, fruit and cookies, and drinks. Call Sandra for more details.

- ☛ TCAH members and supporters have started sending faxes to the Chief Coroner's office protesting the actions of the presiding coroner (see *Inquest Update #8*). Don't forget to send your personal or organizational letter today to Dr. James Young at 416-314-4030!
- ☛ One is too many - the report of TCAH's inquiry into homelessness, is going to Toronto's Board of Health on Thursday, July 11th (see *Inquest Update #6*). If you haven't already booked your deputation, please call the clerk's office today at 416-392-7025.

Corrections:

In our last *Inquest Update*, we said that the management representative from Seaton House used the word "deluxe" to describe the so-called cottages at the men's shelter. In fact, his words were "very pleasant". We also incorrectly reported the details of a ruling from the presiding coroner against TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal. The coroner didn't prohibit Rosenthal from questioning the Seaton representative about the list of people barred from the hostel. He did refuse to subpoena the list as evidence at the inquest. We regret these errors.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings usually begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at around noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch.

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

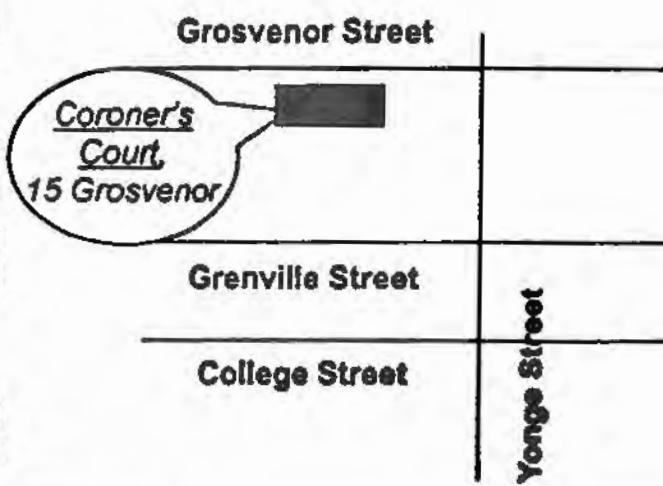
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE!

No. 9 - Tuesday, July 9th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Didn't check homeless shelters, detective admits: Police investigation into street death full of gaps

The police investigation into the death of Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani was full of gaps, testified Metro police detective Tinkler. Kompani died earlier this year on Toronto's streets, one of three deaths that sparked the homeless inquest. The detective - on the witness stand during day nine of the inquest - said he didn't contact homeless shelters because there were "too many". Despite the fact that Kompani had been labelled with a mental illness, Tinkler didn't check with any hospitals other than Queen Street Mental Health Centre and the Clarke Institute. Although Kompani was from Iran, Tinker said that he didn't contact any Iranian groups.

Most homeless people are known by their faces, but Tinkler said that he didn't take Kompani's picture to places where homeless people gather. (*Editor's note:* Anishnawbe Street Patrol - which found Kompani's frozen body - asked police for a photo to assist in the investigation. The Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH) also requested photos, but the police and coroner refused to release any photos or renderings of any of the three men.)

Tinkler testified that police found a briefcase with notebooks near Kompani's body. Although it was taken by police as evidence, Tinkler said that he did not investigate the contents. He couldn't even tell the court where it is stored.

"I really don't see why we can't hear evidence from the other side," said one frustrated inquest juror on day nine.

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(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's Inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal asked Tinkler whether the coroner directed the investigation. Tinkler replied no, then added: "well, no, I wouldn't say I got no direction". "We had a lot of discussions," Tinkler admitted under questioning, but said that he couldn't remember what they entailed. He recalled several meetings with presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg and one with regional coroner Dr. Robert Huxter.

"Why can't we hear other side" - juror asks

After several recesses and a lengthy lunch break caused by repeated objections from the coroner and crown attorney, a clearly frustrated inquest juror asked a crucial question: "I don't see why we can't hear evidence from the other side. . ." The juror called a management representative from Seaton House men's hostel who spoke on Monday as "biased". The juror's question (shared by TCAH members) came during the testimony of Bob Jackson, a front-line worker at the Open Door Centre, a day shelter that draws 300 to 400 homeless people on a winter day. Jackson runs a rooms registry service to assist homeless people to find housing, but Jackson said that Toronto's housing crisis makes it difficult for homeless people to get off the streets.

Jackson, who was called as a crown witness, was repeatedly interrupted when he tried to give evidence on the conditions in hostels for the homeless that are reported to him by hostel dwellers. Yesterday, the crown allowed a management representative from Seaton House to testify at great length about what he called the "very pleasant" conditions there. On Tuesday, Jackson was not allowed to describe the conditions that hostels users experience. The presiding coroner is to rule Wednesday on whether Jackson will be allowed to give his evidence.

About 60 people at rally to protest cover-up at inquest

About 60 homeless people, their allies and friends converged on the coroner's court Tuesday at 12.30 p.m. to protest the continued actions by the presiding coroner and crown attorney to silence witnesses and block evidence from the homeless inquest. The coroner has consistently blocked attempts by TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal to ensure that the inquest jury gets a full and fair picture of the lives - and deaths - of homeless people in Toronto.

TCAH needs your help!

Every day since the homeless inquest started, TCAH members have provided a simple meal for homeless people and others attending the hearing. Various groups, agencies and individuals have volunteered to cover lunch up to July 17th. If you or your agency can supply a lunch after that time, please call Sandra Capponi at PARC at 416-588-1854. The meal can be as simple as

(Continued on page 3)

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATES

No. 10 - Wednesday, July 10th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Delays are wasting too much time, says TCAH lawyer: Coroner, crown continue to block key evidence

Day 10 of Toronto's homeless inquest was once again marked by delays as presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg and the crown attorney continued to block key evidence from their own witnesses from being presented to the inquest jury. TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal noted that the coroner and the crown are wasting too much time preventing the jury from hearing evidence. Two pieces of evidence that the jury wasn't allowed to hear today:

- Expert testimony from Norman Murray, manager of the Toronto East General Hospital's detox facility (a residential program to allow substance abusers to "dry out"), about treatment programs for men with addictions. Although "alcoholism and the homeless" is one of the permissible topics, Murray was not allowed to talk about the serious risk to homeless addicts posed by waiting lists for treatment programs.
- Expert testimony from Peter Bruckman of Street Hotline, a telephone referral service, about the crisis in affordable housing in Toronto. Bruckman tried to testify about the problems that low-income people have with the welfare system and how that leads to homelessness, but he was silenced by the crown attorney.

Housing and welfare top the coroner's censored list, despite repeated evidence from crown witnesses (before they are cut). Rosenthal has repeatedly sought to broaden the scope of the inquest to ensure that there is a full and fair hearing. On Wednesday, the lawyer representing the

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's Inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

Municipality of Metro Toronto appealed to the coroner to allow evidence about supportive housing and community support services.

Meanwhile, in the testimony that was allowed today, Bruckman from Street Hotline stated that he has received reports from homeless people who use Toronto's hostels that they have been assaulted. He said users describe certain hostels (the coroner barred him from naming names) as too large and claustrophobic, with too many rules and restrictions. Bruckman testified that finding a bed in a hostel or detox centre is "like a crapshoot" - some days yes, some days no.

In his testimony, Murray described in detail the operations of detox centres. He said that men who were not sent directly to a treatment program are discharged "TOR" ("to his own resources") - which basically means that homeless men are sent directly back to the streets.

Coalition seeks part-time inquest reporter

Bob Olsen, TCAH steering committee member, has been taking detailed notes of each day of testimony at the homeless inquest - in order to assist lawyer Peter Rosenthal. He takes notes all day, then writes up his notes at night. Bob is appealing for help. If you can volunteer a few hours, or an entire day, to come to the inquest and record the events, please call Bob at 967-0768 and leave a message on his answering machine.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at around noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

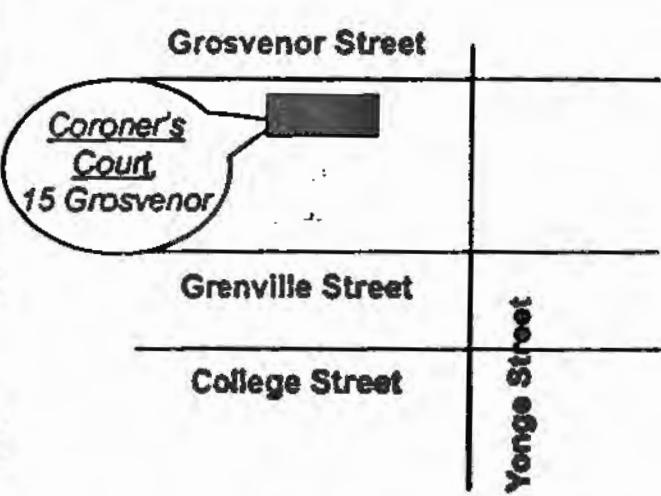
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATES!

No. 11 - Thursday, July 11th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Chief Coroner and Solicitor-General will receive protest: Toronto Board of Health blasts presiding coroner

On day 11 of the homeless inquest, the big news was not in the coroner's court, but a few blocks away at city hall, where the Toronto Board of Health unanimously passed a resolution condemning the constant restrictions by the presiding coroner, Dr. Murray Naiberg. Not only won't he allow evidence about housing, welfare or related issues to be placed before the inquest jury, but Dr. Naiberg is constantly silencing expert witnesses. At their Thursday meeting, board of health members directed Toronto's Acting Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David McKeown, to communicate with the Chief Coroner of Ontario, Dr. James Young, and his political boss, Solicitor-General Bob Runciman. Dr. McKeown will draw the links between housing and homelessness, including research studies by the Department of Public Health. The angry vote came during a debate on *One is too many*, the report from the public inquiry by the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH). All the report's 44 recommendations were adopted by the board (with a minor amendment), and sent to Toronto City Council for action. The board heard more than a dozen speakers support the TCAH report as a practical plan of action.

Shhhhhh! The homeless inquest is resuming!

Meanwhile, Thursday began at the homeless inquest in typical fashion. Presiding Coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg ruled, once again, that housing and related issues won't be allowed at the

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

homeless inquest. His ruling came in response to a request from lawyer Jacqueline Wigle, representing the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, to broaden the scope of the inquest. Dr. Naiberg also ruled that expert witnesses who work with the homeless won't be allowed to report what the homeless are experiencing in specific hostels. TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal wanted the experts, who are in contact with literally hundreds of homeless people over the course of a month, to give evidence that would counter the rosy picture of hostel life painted by a management representative from Seaton House, the largest hostel for homeless men. Since the coroner won't let the experts give the overview, Rosenthal has warned that TCAH will be forced to call a number of hostel users to give a series of individual stories about life in hostels.

Meanwhile, Metro detective Robert Gordon gave evidence of the shoddy police investigation into the three deaths (the inquest has already heard of inadequacies in the Kompani probe). He testified that the police obtained hospital records on Eugene Upper, one of the three dead men. When Rosenthal asked the detective if it was true that the records of the Toronto Western Hospital show that Upper asked at 10 p.m. on Jan. 3rd, 1996, to be admitted to a detox centre - less than 36 hours before he was found dead - Gordon admitted that he hadn't read the records!

Quote of the day

"There are a lot of people suffering on the streets and it doesn't need to be," said Peter Bruckman from the Street Hotline. "It's that that I can't talk about," he said on the witness stand just before his evidence was cut short by a ruling from the presiding coroner.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

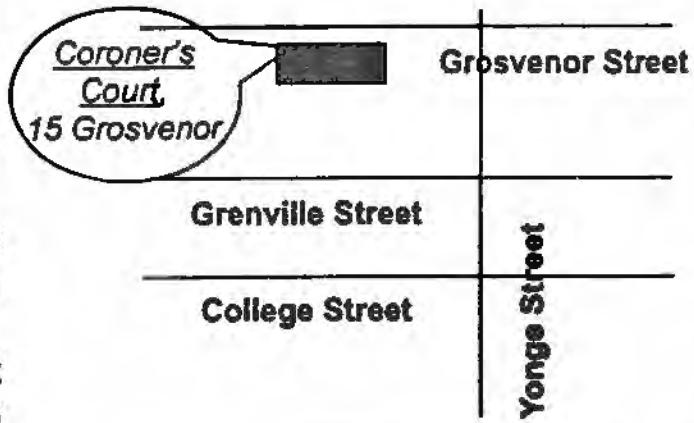
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 12 - Friday, July 12th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Attempt to impose blatant double standard thwarted: Agitated coroner and crown attack TCAH lawyer

They're rattled! That's the only explanation for the extraordinary actions of presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg and crown attorney Mary Ellen Hurman and their strident attacks on Peter Rosenthal, lawyer for the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH). On Friday, Dr. Naiberg demanded that Rosenthal provide will-says (sworn affidavits outlining testimony that a witness will give) from every witness to be called by TCAH. While the coalition already has will-says for most of its witnesses, Rosenthal asked why the coroner was demanding will-says from every witness, since the crown didn't provide these documents for all her witnesses.

Hurman made an angry interjection, insisting that TCAH has the resources to do the work and complaining that she has less resources at her disposal (*Editor's note:* the combined annual budgets of the Ministry of the Attorney General, where Hurman works; the Ministry of the Solicitor General, where Naiberg works; and Metro police department, which conducts the investigations; is more than \$2 billion. The combined annual budgets of all 28 member agencies of TCAH is, well, considerably less. TCAH itself has raised about \$2,000 in fundraising efforts to cover legal expenses at the inquest, plus all the other costs of running the coalition.)

Eventually, Naiberg relented and agreed to allow flexibility. It was a startling end of a bad week for Naiberg and Hurman. While they are busy trying to keep the inquest as narrow as possible inside the court, TCAH members have taken their crusade for a full and fair inquest into the community. Letters of protest have started to arrive in the office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's Inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

(editor's note: send your note by fax to Dr. James Young at 416-314-4030). The Toronto Board of Health voted unanimously on Thursday to condemn the narrow scope of the inquest.

Sally Ann captain silenced at homeless inquest

Meanwhile, another crown witness was silenced by the presiding coroner on Friday at the homeless inquest. Salvation Army Captain Ian McAlister was on the witness stand. TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal started to ask: "It would seem that Eugene Upper had a difficult life. His father left after he was born. His stepfather was an alcoholic and committed suicide. . .", but the coroner cut him off, saying: "I do not find his life history helpful to the jury." To date, Dr. Naiberg has said that he also doesn't find evidence about affordable housing, supportive housing, welfare and a long list of other items helpful. He has, however, allowed extensive evidence about dentures and dental treatment.

Expected on the witness stand this week: City Councillor David Hutcheon; Alex Jacobs from the Native Men's Residence; a psychiatrist from York County Hospital; and Frank Wilson from Wigwamen Terrace, where Irwin Anderson lived before he was evicted.

Quote of the day

"Every night I go there - every night I walk through the halls - every night I ask - it's full. Maybe there were a couple of nights (with empty beds), but only a few."

Salvation Army Captain Ian McAlister (asked about empty beds at the men's hostel)

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

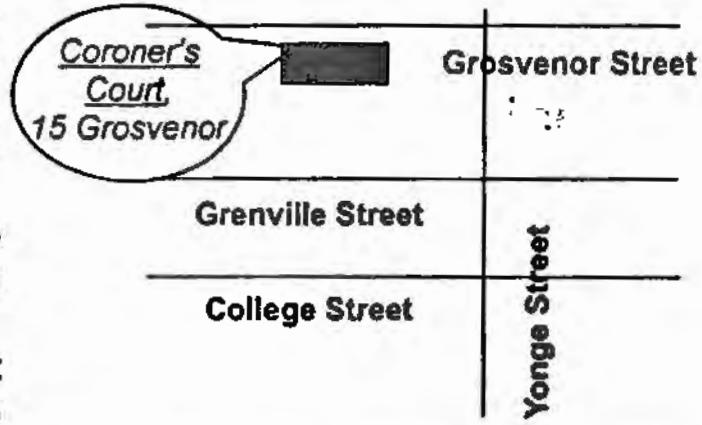
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST
UPDATES

No. 13 - Monday, July 15th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Homeless people don't just die in the winter in Toronto

Day 13 of Toronto's homeless inquest brought news of another homeless death. First reports indicate that the middle-aged man was found in Coronation Park on Sunday morning. The Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness hopes to provide more details soon.

Breakthrough at the homeless inquest: Metro evictions report presented to jury

A breakthrough - of sorts - occurred on day 13 of the homeless inquest, as crown witness Sean Goetz-Gadon, executive assistant to Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall, was allowed to present a recent Metro report on evictions to the inquest jury. Previously, the presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg and crown attorney Mary Ellen Hurman have struggled to keep evidence of housing and evictions from the jury - saying that it isn't relevant to homelessness. The report, called *Working Together: An exploration of strategies to prevent evictions*, provides a brief overview of Metro's housing crisis, and the links to evictions and homelessness. Most significantly, it contains a series of detailed recommendations to ease the problem. Goetz-Gadon comes back to the witness stand late on Tuesday morning for cross-examination by TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal. Will Goetz-Gadon, who has years of experience in housing policy and development, be allowed explain the details of the report? We'll tell you tomorrow!

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, in other developments at the homeless inquest, **Frank Wilson**, superintendent at Wigwamen Terrace, where **Irwin Anderson** lived, was on the stand. There is evidence that Anderson was evicted from his apartment after he went on a rent strike to protest the lack of cooking facilities. When questioned by Rosenthal about the stoves in the building, Wilson said that "it's not a serious problem" even though the stoves are 18-years-old. "We've started to replace them," he conceded.

Alex Jacobs, a long-time front-line housing worker, who works at the Native Men's Residence (**Nameres**) testified that each time he saw Anderson on the street, he was more depressed, adding that depression is common among homeless people. Jacobs was asked by Rosenthal to put Anderson's drinking problem into context (including the racism he faced as a native person), but coroner Naiberg silenced the witness saying: "the person's life history is not important to the jury". When the TCAH lawyer said that he wanted to counter the perception that Anderson was the "author of his own misfortune", the coroner replied: "I'm sorry you brought that up, Mr. Rosenthal. It's not something the jury has heard." (*Editor's note:* it was coroner Naiberg himself who said on July 7th: "Irwin Anderson is the author of his own misfortune" to justify his ruling not to allow the witness **Jimmy Groat** from Aboriginal Legal Services to be called at that time.)

Martin Wright, a formerly homeless man, gave stunning testimony about the conditions at Seaton House, the largest hostel for homeless men in Canada. There was a brief skirmish when Naiberg ruled that Wright couldn't name a specific hostel, but the coroner relented when Rosenthal reminded him that Wright has direct experience. He spoke of racism, barrings, unsafe conditions and the backlash that hostel users experience when they complain.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. The inquest adjourns at noon on Fridays. Every day - including Friday - during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch. Everyone is encouraged to attend!

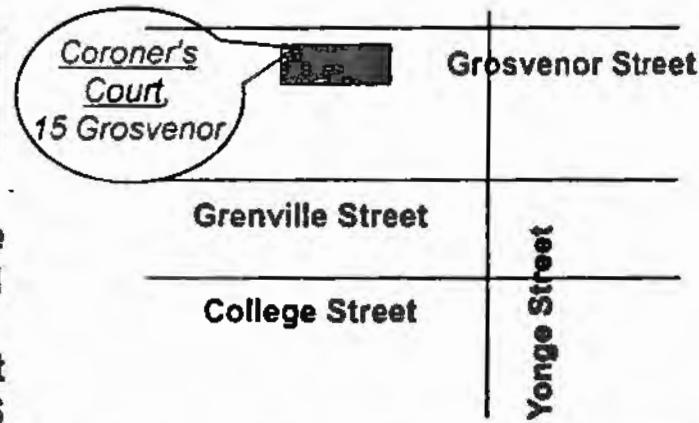
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Don't forcibly remove homeless from streets, urges Hutcheon

Toronto City Councillor David Hutcheon, called to the witness stand on Tuesday, urged the inquest jury to reject any scheme that involves the forcible removal of homeless from the streets.

"I find it abhorrent," he said of plans such as "Code Blue", a protocol used in some U.S. cities that basically involves using police to drag homeless people off the streets. "It takes away the civil rights of the person and there is the potential for abuse. It's the type of situation being used in Atlanta right now." (*Editor's note - see attached flyer.*)

Hutcheon chaired the city's HEAT committee, which was set up in response to the freezing deaths last winter. He developed a personal resolve to work on the homeless problem after spending time with the Anishnawbe Street Patrol. Hutcheon helped to open Toronto's downtown military armoury during a cold snap last winter. As many as 225 people a night slept on the concrete floor of the emergency shelter. "People will come to a safe, secure space if it is offered," he said, countering the perception that homeless people "choose" to live on the streets.

Board of Health Chair to visit homeless inquest Wednesday

Toronto City Councillor Peter Tabuns, chair of the city's Board of Health, will visit the homeless inquest at 10.30 a.m. Wednesday to observe the proceedings. At 11 a.m., Tabuns will meet with the media to release copies of letters to the Ontario Solicitor-General and the Chief Coroner of Ontario protesting harsh restrictions on the evidence allowed at the inquest.

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

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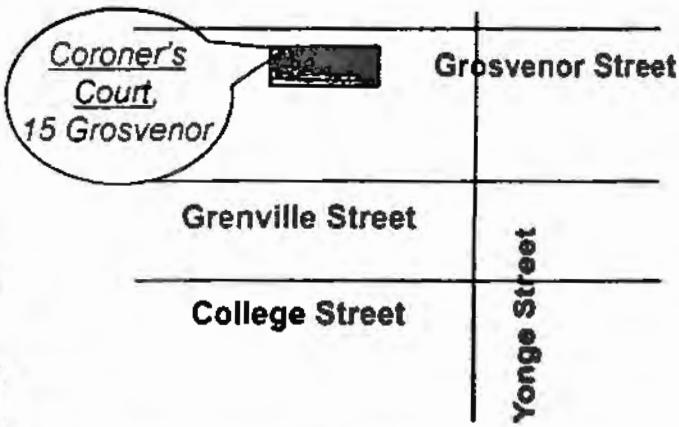
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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 14 - Tuesday, July 16th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Wrote to immigration authorities about patient: **Psychiatrist makes shocking admission**

Day 14 at Toronto's homeless inquest brought a number of big developments - Crown Attorney **Mary Ellen Hurman** announced that she is down to her last two witnesses, Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness lawyer **Peter Rosenthal** is preparing to call witnesses starting Wednesday, July 17th, and the presiding coroner **Dr. Murray Naiberg** continued to back away from his earlier actions in sharply restricting the scope of the inquest.

But the day began with shocking and troubling testimony from **Dr. Stephen Stokal**, staff psychiatrist at York County Hospital. Dr. Stokal is the only witness to date at the homeless inquest who has appeared along with his own lawyer. On a couple of occasions, the lawyer interjected during questioning that was difficult for Dr. Stokal. **Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani**, one of the three homeless men whose deaths last winter are at the centre of the inquest, was a patient of Dr. Stokal. While Kompani was in the care of Dr. Stokal, the psychiatrist testified that he became concerned that Kompani might be an "illegal immigrant". Dr. Stokal said he wrote a letter to federal immigration authorities about Kompani out of "civic concern". Dr. Stokal also testified that he felt that Kompani was "abusing" the welfare system, although the psychiatrist admitted from the witness stand that he couldn't recall details. Dr. Stokal said that his immigration

(Continued on page 2)

Vigil for the homeless of Atlanta and Toronto

Wednesday, July 16
12.30 p.m.
Coroner's Court

see attached flyer



Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

and welfare concerns were a "factor" in his decision to discharge Kompani from the hospital, although the doctor insisted that clinical care was his "number one concern."

Kompani was admitted for two separate stays at the York hospital under the care of Dr. Stokal. He was seen in the emergency ward by another psychiatrist but was not admitted to the psychiatric ward. Dr. Stokal said that he initially diagnosed Kompani as "schizophrenic". He then changed his diagnosis to "paranoia" or a "delusional disorder" on the second stay, which he described as "an ongoing level of heightened suspiciousness". On his third visit, Kompani was not considered seriously ill by the attending psychiatrist and was not admitted.

Dr. Stokal described Kompani as "very co-operative" and a "gentle man". He said that one sign of Kompani's mental disorder was his "pseudo-religious" attitude. However, the doctor admitted under testimony from Rosenthal that he simply may not have understood Kompani's cultural background. Kompani was from Iran. "It's possible that I didn't understand," he conceded.

After his third visit, Kompani was sent to Seaton House, the biggest men's hostel in Canada. Dr. Stokal admitted on cross-examination by Rosenthal that it would be a "concern" to send someone diagnosed as "paranoid" to live with hundreds of other men in a crowded hostel. "There aren't very many options," he said, to justify the decision. He testified that the ideal option would be a "reasonable place to stay and reasonable support".

Meanwhile, crown witness Sean Goetz-Gadon, executive assistant to Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall, continued his testimony, providing detailed evidence of Toronto's housing crisis. Goetz-Gadon, who was also an aide to two Ontario Ministers of Housing, said that the 1986 inquest into the death of Drina Joubert, a homeless woman, brought important changes to government policies and programs. He told the jury that "any advice and suggestions given to (government policy makers) would be quite helpful". Goetz-Gadon also said that there is extensive documentation that Metro Toronto's existing housing doesn't meet the needs.

Also on the witness stand, Sandra Petty, a nurse, from Shout Clinic, a health service for street youth. She gave detailed evidence about the particular issues facing homeless young people.

No hearing on Friday, TCAH case begins Wednesday

Attention, inquest watchers: Toronto's homeless inquest takes a long weekend. There will be no hearing on Friday, July 19th (therefore, no lunch sponsored by TCAH).

Crown attorney Mary Ellen Hurman will be winding up her witnesses on Wednesday. TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal will start calling coalition witnesses Wednesday. Homeless people, front-line workers and housing agencies are on the coalition's list of witnesses.

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 15 - Wednesday, July 17th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Presiding coroner has already announced his verdict: Crown attorney closes her case before inquest

Crown attorney Mary Ellen Hurman closed her case before the homeless inquest on Wednesday (her final witness will be called next week). Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg blurted out on July 5th that "Irwin Anderson was the author of his own misfortune" (*Inquest Update No. 7*). Hurman, counsel to the coroner during the inquest, built her case to support Dr. Naiberg's views. Throughout the first 15 days of the inquest, Dr. Naiberg and Hurman continually blocked evidence on housing, supportive housing, treatment programs and other issues and tried to paint as grim a picture as possible of the three dead men. Effective action by TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal inside the courtroom, and a strong campaign by coalition members and supporters on the outside, succeeded in widening the scope of the inquest somewhat in the last few days. As noted in *Inquest Update No. 12*, Dr. Naiberg and Hurman are making strong demands on Rosenthal. They are insisting that Rosenthal provide complete witness lists and will-say declarations for each witness - something that the crown failed to do. Despite the double standard, the coalition has supplied the information requested.

Passionate plea to jury

"This winter, we saw a lot of suffering," said Gaetan Heroux, a frontline worker at the drop-in run by Central Neighbourhood House, a TCAH

No hearing on Friday!

The homeless inquest takes a long weekend. The hearing will adjourn Thursday afternoon and won't resume until Monday morning.

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

member. Heroux was called by TCAH. In an appeal to the jury, Heroux said: "there is a crisis. There's a lot of suffering and despair. Acknowledgement of that by the jury is very important. The message: we have to stop the flow of people." Regarding Eugene Upper, Heroux said: "his biggest problem wasn't that he was an alcoholic - it was that he was homeless."

Before he was allowed to testify, presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg ruled that Heroux couldn't give evidence about welfare, welfare cuts or housing. Dr. Naiberg also barred Heroux from introducing the mission statement of TCAH, and also *One is too many*, the report of the public inquiry by TCAH into homelessness. Crown attorney Mary Ellen Hurman argued that it would influence the jury (*editor's note*: it would influence the jury to get a full and fair picture of homelessness, something that Hurman has absolutely refused to allow the jury to get).

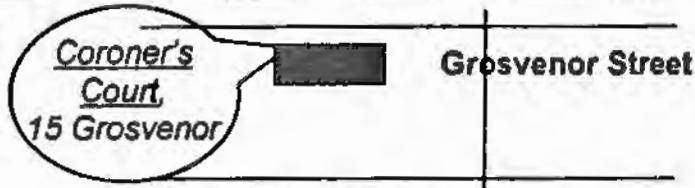
Meanwhile, TCAH also called Stan Dalton to the witness stand Wednesday. Dalton is assistant hostel supervisor at Seaton House, Canada's largest hostel for homeless men. Before he could begin, Dr. Naiberg ordered him to restrict his evidence to a narrow range of issues. Dalton presented a radically different image of Seaton than that painted by management representative Bill Cerovic (*Inquest Update No. 8*). Dalton described the atmosphere in the hostel as "militaristic" and said its rules were "too draconian". He testified about the use of barrings to keep out certain people - even stating that one person was barred for eating extra ice cream. Dr. Naiberg prevented Dalton from introducing the recommendations from the 1992 Seaton House Inquiry, which included a call for an ombudsman - something that still hasn't happened.

Also on the stand, Metro police constable David Willis (called by the crown), who said that he is "cataloguing" homeless people in Toronto by taking their photo and other information. He said many of the street people are of the "aboriginal variety". (*editor's note*: !!!!)

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays, the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. Every day during the lunch break, TCAH serves a free lunch.
Everyone is encouraged to attend!

**Free lunch every week
day at about 12.30 p.m.**



For information about TCAH:

Cathy Crowe
416-703-9511, ext. 21

Or send a fax note to:

Michael Shapcott
416-366-3876

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 16 - Thursday, July 18th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

"Cover-up with a capital C": Coroner says NO to most TCAH witnesses

The cover-up continues at Toronto's homeless inquest with a startling ruling Thursday by presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg to exclude most of the witnesses of the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH). It appears that as few as six of the 16 witnesses requested by TCAH will be allowed to speak. "It's a cover-up with a capital C," says Cathy Crowe, a nurse at West Central Community Health Centres and a TCAH member. "The real tragedy here is that the jury is being prevented from hearing essential evidence - testimony about the harsh life that homeless people face, and evidence about practical solutions that could help to bring the homeless in from the cold. The jury is supposed to make recommendations to prevent homeless deaths, but coroner and the crown attorney are preventing them from doing their duty. Of course, the real people to suffer are the homeless themselves. When more homeless people die this coming winter - as they surely will - their blood will be on the hands of the coroner and crown attorney," says Crowe.

In his ruling striking down TCAH witnesses, Dr. Naiberg even delivered a mocking put-down of Beric German, a longtime and dedicated homeless worker and TCAH member, saying: "I do not intend to provide him with a pulpit to preach the gospel according to St. German." On July 5th, Dr. Naiberg said that "Irwin Anderson

No hearing on Friday, we need you Monday!

The inquest takes a long weekend. The hearing will adjourn until Monday morning. With the inquest in its final few days, we need you in the courtroom! Come on out!

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's Inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

(one of three dead men who are the subject of the inquest) was the author of his own misfortune". He has blocked evidence that would suggest otherwise - evidence of Toronto's critical housing shortage, that is forcing people onto the streets, and evidence from homeless people about the conditions in hostels that make them reluctant to use these shelters, even on cold, winter nights. Dr. Naiberg said he has "only heard continual carping about Seaton House," Canada's largest hostel for men. However, it was the coroner's counsel, crown attorney **Mary Ellen Hurman**, who introduced evidence that two of the three men might have stayed at Seaton on the night of their deaths. "There are reasons why people are homeless, reasons that Dr. Naiberg won't let the inquest jury hear," says Crowe. "Instead, he wants to blame the dead men, who cannot defend themselves." Dr. Naiberg's crackdown on TCAH's witnesses came on the same day as news reports of political interference in another high-profile inquest (see "Meddling at inquest hinted", *The Toronto Star*, July 18th).

Meanwhile, **Melvin Tipping** - who may be the only homeless homeless person that TCAH will be allowed to call as a witness - testified that during a stay at Seaton, he fell off a bunkbed in a dormitory and broke two ribs. He said, quite simply: "Most homeless people want housing."

An *Inquest Update* reader offers his opinion...

Coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg took time Thursday to offer his comments on Issue No. 15 of *Inquest Update*. Despite plenty of pointed observations in our newsletter about his conduct in the Toronto courtroom, Dr. Naiberg was most disconcerted with our report from Atlanta about the massive violations of human rights there, including more than 9,500 arrests of homeless people, the destruction of more than 7,000 units of low-income housing and the "conscious and consistent effort" to target African-American men. He called it "inflammatory".

Please come on out to the homeless inquest!

On weekdays (except this Friday), the hearings begin at 9.30 or 10.00 a.m. and run to 4.30 p.m., with a lunch break from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. TCAH serves a free lunch.

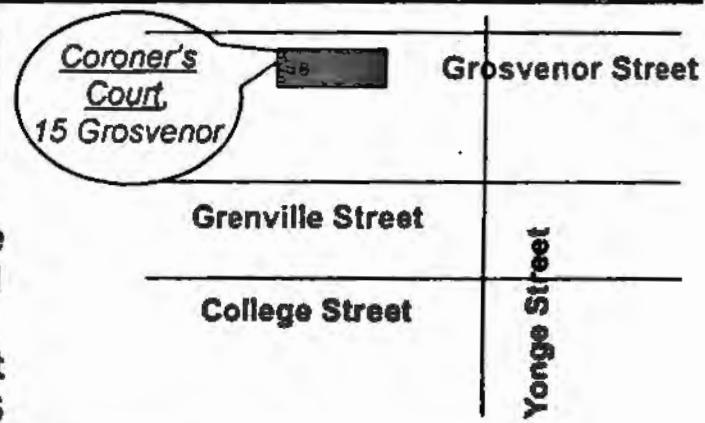
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day at about 12.30 p.m.**

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Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 17 - Monday, July 22nd, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Witnesses say affordable housing and social supports needed: They didn't want to live on Toronto's streets

The 17th day of Toronto's homeless inquest heard some of the most compelling testimony to date. Merie Anderson, daughter of **Irwin Anderson**, spoke simply of her father's final years, including his last Christmas, which he spent on the couch in her living room. Jimmy Groat from Aboriginal Legal Services, who had known Irwin for five years, spoke of a native man forced to live in a non-native culture. Sheryl Lindsay, of the Hostel Outreach Program, spoke of her work with hundreds of homeless people. Marilyn White-Campbell, an addictions expert who works with the Community Older Persons Program and volunteers with the homeless, described playing euchre with **Eugene Upper**. While presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg has dismissed Irwin as "the author of his own misfortune", and crown attorney Mary-Ellen Hurman has not missed an opportunity to paint an equally chilling picture of the dead men, the portrait that emerged on Monday was much more real - and deeply painful.

Eugene wanted to get off the streets, said White-Campbell. He had been through the cycle of rooming and boarding houses, where the landlord would take virtually every penny of a tenant's income, to shelters for the homeless. "Hostels are hostile," said Eugene. Two days before he was found frozen to death, Eugene told some community volunteers that he was planning to take his own life. "For him, drinking and the cold was a lethal combination," she said, "he knew it." The shocking news was delivered to the quiet

Only two days left

The homeless inquest is expected to wrap up on Wednesday, with final submissions to the jury. Come on out!

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

coroner's court - Eugene was so desperate to get off the streets that he was considering suicide. (Editor's note: the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness has tried to introduce an analysis of streets deaths by Dianne Patychuk, an epidemiologist with Toronto's Department of Public Health, but Dr. Naiberg dismissed the evidence as "irrelevant".)

All the witnesses Monday agreed that there are practical steps to prevent people from becoming homeless, or help them get off the streets. "I don't believe that people don't want help," said White-Campbell. She spoke of a "geographical cure" - a supportive environment that includes affordable housing and social supports. Lindsay said she is convinced that housing is at the top of the list of priorities to stop the flow of people onto the streets. She called for adequate funding for housing and community-based social services and dismissed a suggestion that volunteers could be drafted. White-Campbell noted that Eugene told community volunteers from the Out of the Cold program that he was considering suicide. "I can't fault them," said White-Campbell, for not being able to respond, but they simply didn't have the training. Groat said that Irwin wanted to speak his language, but there were few people with whom he could talk. There are no culturally sensitive detox centres for aboriginal people in Toronto, he said, and only one hostel for native men, which is strictly dry. Native men who are substance users are left on the street.

Coroner tosses out most TCAH witnesses

Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg, in his relentless campaign to keep evidence about housing from the inquest jury, has refused to allow TCAH to call most of its witnesses. On the censored list is a number of homeless people; an eminent toxicologist, Dr. Eugene Leblanc; one of Canada's leading authorities on "vulnerable adults" and housing, Prof. Ernie Lightman; housing experts; and others with detailed knowledge and practical experience. After strong arguments from the coalition, Naiberg reluctantly agreed to allow Cathy Crowe, a nurse who has worked with homeless adults for years, to take the stand - but only if she doesn't use the "h" word (that's housing). Naiberg also grudgingly agreed to allow Dr. Ty Turner, chief of psychiatry at Doctor's Hospital and an acknowledged expert on mental health issues for the homeless, to take the stand, but only to talk about discharge planning (the formal process of sending a homeless person from a psychiatric ward into the community).

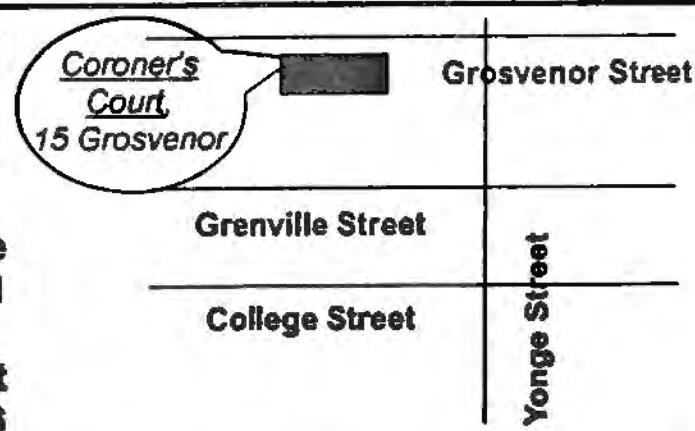
**Free lunch every week
day at about 12.30 p.m.**

For Information about TCAH:

Cathy Crowe
416-703-9511, ext. 21

Or send a fax note to:

Michael Shapcott
416-366-3876



Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 18 - Tuesday, July 23rd, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper



come out on Wednesday
final day of the inquest!

Final submissions to the jury are expected to begin Wednesday
at about 1.30 p.m. Come on out! Show your support!

➤ *Inter-faith vigil at 12.30 p.m.* ◄

with Nancy Pocock,
Don Heap, Sister Susan

Free lunch at 12.30 p.m.

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Coroner's
Court
15 Grosvenor

Grosvenor Street

Grenville Street

College Street

Yonge Street

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 19 - Wednesday, July 24th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Crown attorney makes a dramatic about-face: Toronto's homeless deserve a place to call home!

Finally! A stunning breakthrough on day 19 of Toronto's homeless inquest!!

After a month of attempting to suppress the obvious, crown attorney **Mary-Ellen Hurman**, counsel to coroner Dr. **Murray Naiberg**, made a dramatic about-face and has joined with the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH) in supporting a recommendation to the in-quest jury that calls for more supportive housing for the homeless. From day one, Hurman and Dr. Naiberg have silenced witnesses when they tried to make the link between homelessness and housing. They refused to allow TCAH to call most of its witnesses, including experts on supportive and affordable housing. Therefore, although the recommendation will go to the jury backed by all sides, jurors won't have the benefit of the evidence that TCAH tried to present.

The turn-around is a tribute to a number of factors. Many witnesses, including those called by the crown, defied the restrictions and spoke about the need for housing the homeless. Several times, jurors raised their own objections. TCAH lawyer **Peter Rosenthal** was effective inside the court-room. TCAH members and supporters raised their voices in letters and faxes to the Chief Coroner of Ontario, plus vigils, rallies and speak-outs on the pavement in front of Coroner's Court.

Final day of submissions

TCAH lawyer **Peter Rosenthal** finishes his submissions to the inquest jury on Thursday, then the Metro lawyer and the crown attorney add their comments.

Come on out!

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

Hurman is not only backing a supportive housing recommendation to the inquest jury, but she has also joined with TCAH and the lawyer for the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto in supporting 23 other recommendations to the jury on hostels, detox centres, crisis response and health care. The joint recommendations from all three parties came after several hours of intense negotiations on Wednesday afternoon that saw about two dozen TCAH members packed into the waiting area of Coroner's Court while the lawyers argued over language. From time to time, Rosenthal would emerge to report developments and check with coalition members on proposals from other lawyers. His reports were often punctuated by clapping and cheers as TCAH members learned that many of the recommendations they were planning to put to the jury were being adopted by the coroner's counsel. Some of key recommendations supported by all sides include:

- more detox beds in Metro Toronto, including funding for a culturally-sensitive detox centre for aboriginal people to be developed in consultation with First Nations groups.
- funding for a pilot project to create a team of specially-trained crisis response workers. At TCAH's insistence, in order to prevent a military-style forcible removal of homeless people against their will, participation by homeless people will be voluntary.
- additional staffing for the Hostel Outreach Program and increased funding for programs for homeless alcoholics.
- a report-back mechanism that requires the Office of the Chief Coroner to forward the recommendations to various authorities for implementation, with a request for a reponse in six months. The Coroner's Office will forward copies of the responses, or notification of any failure to respond, to jurors and all parties with standing at the inquest, including TCAH.

In addition to the joint recommendations, TCAH has about 20 additional recommendations to the jurors, including stronger recommendations on creating more affordable housing.

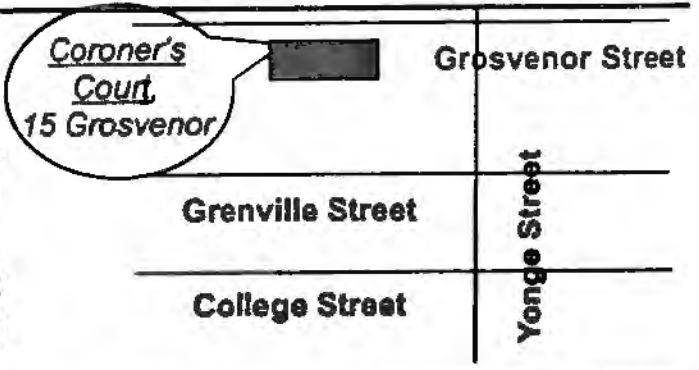
Meanwhile, the action continued on the sidewalk in front of the Coroner's Court with an inter-faith vigil on Wednesday that featured Nancy Pocock, Quaker activist; Sister Susan from Out of the Cold, who brought a message of "solidarity and love" from Anglican Bishop Terry Finlay; former MP Don Heap; and Charles Roach from the Black Action Defense Committee.

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Michael Shapcott
416-366-3876



Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 20 - Thursday, July 25th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

TCAH lawyer makes powerful, final address:

Homeless inquest jury will write “final epitaph”

In a powerful, final address to inquest jurors, Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness lawyer Peter Rosenthal asked them to take care as they write the “final epitaph” for the three homeless men. There were many emotional moments as Rosenthal, standing just a few feet away from the five members of the jury, spoke of the humanity of the homeless men. Even though some people might get scared or angry as they walk by homeless people on the streets, Rosenthal asked the jury to avoid turning away from the three dead men. Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg, who has frequently battled with Rosenthal over the coroner’s restrictive rulings, delivered his final jab on Thursday. He silenced Rosenthal as he sought to tell the jury that Dr. Naiberg had stopped TCAH from calling most of its witnesses, including homeless people, housing experts and a toxicologist.

Inquest jury could deliver its verdict at any time!

On Friday morning, crown attorney Mary-Ellen Hurman will deliver final remarks to the inquest jury, then - after the charge from the coroner - the jury will retire. They could return at any time with their verdict, plus recommendations to prevent similar deaths.

TCAH may have as little as one hour of notice before the jury returns! If we have enough time, we’ll call or fax TCAH members and supporters. You can stay in touch 24-hours-a-day by calling **Cathy Crowe at 416-703-9511, ext. 21.**

**Please make every effort to come to the Coroner's Court,
15 Grosvenor St., when the jury returns. Come on out!**

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 21 - Friday, July 26th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Crown, coroner end the inquest with apologies

Crown attorney **Mary-Ellen Hurman**, counsel to the coroner, claimed to be representing "the public" when she delivered a personal attack on Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness lawyer **Peter Rosenthal** during her final address to the inquest jury on Friday. Hurman was still representing the people when she was required to apologize to Rosenthal and the jury not once, but twice, for her intemperate remarks. Presiding coroner Dr. **Murray Naiberg** gave a highly-defensive charge to the jury moments before they left to begin deliberations. He, too, was forced to make three corrections. Both Hurman and Dr. Naiberg urged the jury to support a call for more supportive housing for the homeless, with Dr. Naiberg even backing TCAH's strong recommendation to develop an action plan for more affordable housing. During the inquest, they blocked virtually every attempt by TCAH to call witnesses or introduce evidence about the links between housing and homelessness.

Verdict could come at any time!

The inquest jury could issue its verdict at any time - perhaps as early as Monday afternoon! TCAH may get as little as one hour of notice before the jury returns. If we have enough time, we'll send out a fax bulletin. If not, we'll make as many phone calls as possible! We need as many supporters as possible in the Coroner's Court when the verdict is delivered. For the latest news, call Cathy Crowe at 416-703-9511, ext. 21.

TCAH meeting
Thursday, Aug. 1st
from 10 a.m. to noon

Coalition members: Please plan to attend a very important meeting of TCAH on Thursday, August 1st, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada - Ontario Region offices at #207 - 2 Berkeley Street (that's one block south of Front Street, one block west of Parliament).

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 22 - Tuesday, July 30th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Victory for TCAH

Inquest jury delivers detailed verdict, recommendations!

The five members of the jury at Toronto's homeless inquest delivered their verdict and recommendations on Tuesday evening, calling for more affordable and supportive housing, more and better hostels for the homeless, better services for homeless people who are chronic alcoholics or have mental health concerns, and dozens of other recommendations.

"We urge all levels of government and society at large to make a concerted and serious effort to alleviate the burden of this group of people to allow them to live in dignity," wrote the jurors at the start of nine pages of detailed recommendations.

Their recommendations are a victory for the Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH), which struggled inside and outside the courtroom for five weeks. Presiding coroner Dr. Murray Naiberg, and his legal counsel - crown attorney Mary-Ellen Hurman -

The jury called for:

- funding for more affordable and supportive housing for homeless.
- expanded Street Hotline and Street Patrol services.
- mobile crisis unit with team of specially trained workers.
- expanded programs for homeless people who are chronic alcoholics, including detox beds, and other services.
- more hostels for the homeless, and major changes in the hostel program, including the creation of an ombudsman / advocate.
- doubling of staff at the Hostel Outreach Program for homeless people with mental health issues.
- plus dozens of others! !!

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

tried from the beginning to severely restrict the scope of the inquest. They continually silenced witnesses, including their own experts. They repeatedly refused to allow TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal to question witnesses on key issues. They wouldn't allow TCAH to call most of its witnesses. Despite the heavy-handed restrictions, the jury - to their credit - emerged with a detailed set of practical and sensible recommendations that will go a long way to preventing homeless deaths.

TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal worked extremely hard inside the courtroom day after day during the 21 days of hearings. He was continually attacked, including a vicious attack by Hurman as part of her closing comments to the jury. She was required to apologize not once, but twice, for her final remarks about Rosenthal. TCAH members and supporters were in the courtroom every day. At noon every day, a free lunch was provided to people who attended the inquest. On a number of days, vigils and speak-outs were held on the sidewalk in front of the Coroner's Court to deliver messages that were banned from the courtroom itself.

TCAH members are determined to ensure that the hard work of the inquest, and the recommendations from the jury, are not abandoned.

TCAH has already sent a copy of the recommendations to Toronto Mayor Barbara Hall, with a request that the City commit staff and resources to create a special task force to tackle the scourge of homelessness in Toronto. Homeless and formerly homeless people, along with representatives from various city departments and community groups, including TCAH, would work together to implement the jury's recommendations, along with other useful steps.

On Wednesday morning, TCAH members will deliver a copy of the verdict and recommendations, along with a demand for action, to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Al Leach.

For information about TCAH:

Cathy Crowe
416-703-9511, ext. 21

Or send a fax note to:

Michael Shapcott
416-366-3876

TCAH calendar

Wednesday, July 31st
8.45 a.m. - *Coroner's Court*
15 Grosvenor Street

TCAH members gather to hand-deliver jury's verdict and recommendations to Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Thursday, Aug. 1st
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Co-op Housing Federation offices
#207 - 2 Berkeley Street
(one block south of Front Street,
one block west of Parliament,
call 416-366-1711)

Very important meeting for
TCAH members to review
strategies for action in
the coming days.
Please plan to attend!

Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness

INQUEST UPDATE

No. 23 - Thursday, Aug. 15th, 1996

News from inquest into deaths of Irwin Anderson, Mirsalah-Aldin Kompani, and Eugene Upper

Our final issue:

Thanks for the tremendous effort, together we made it happen!

The Toronto Coalition Against Homelessness (TCAH) achieved a major victory in the homeless inquest. We didn't get every recommendation that is needed, but we achieved a huge success in the face of a harsh campaign to choke the inquest by the presiding coroner, Dr. Murray Naiberg; crown attorney Mary-Ellen Hurman; and the shadowy figures behind them.

Our success came as a result of the collective efforts of many people.

A big thanks to TCAH lawyer Peter Rosenthal.

Plenty of committed people kept coming to the inquest every day: **Bonnie Briggs, Mike Skidd, Paul Rodgers, Leo, Steve Lane, Melvin Tipping, Graeme Bacque, Tom Green, Don Weitz, Gordon Bowes, Norm Feltes.** . . . The TCAH steering committee is: **Cathy Crowe, Gwen Hauser, Gaetan Heroux, Bob Olsen, Beric German, Alicia Odette, Michael Shapcott, Nick Saul, and Carmel Hili.**

Administrative and communications support was donated by the **Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, Women's Health in Women's Hands, Janet Maher, Gary Dale and faxleft, and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada - Ontario Region.** Thanks to CKLN and CIUT for honest, almost daily coverage.

The free lunch provided every day was co-ordinated by **Debbie Chambers and Sandra Capponi from PARC. Meals were provided by: Open Door Centre, Fred Victor Centre (twice!), Community Older Persons Alcohol Program, All Saints Church, Niagara Neighbourhood Health Centre, Central Neighbourhood House, Anishnawbe Street Patrol, Street Health, Regent Park Community Health Centre, Sistering,**

(Continued on page 2)

Please copy, post and distribute TCAH's inquest update!

(Continued from page 1)

Houselink, St. Peter's Out of the Cold, Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre, Christian Resource Centre, The Meeting Place, Dixon Hall, Parkdale Legal, Gerstein Centre, Trinity Cafe.

Bob Olsen took careful notes daily at the inquest, with assistance from Les Williams and law students at Parkdale Community Legal Services and others: Steve Sansom, Kate Matthews, Jennifer Mierau, Suzanne Wesetvic, Farah Esmail, Samuel Godfrey, Frank Manza. The *Inquest Update* was written and distributed daily by Michael Shapcott and Cathy Crowe.

Thanks to pre-inquest hearing witnesses: **George Tdomiczemko, Cathy Crowe, Beric German, Jimmy Groat, Sean Goetz-Gadon, Peter Tabuns, and Michael Shapcott.** Among the TCAH witnesses at the inquest (some TCAH witnesses were called by crown): **Merie Anderson, Cathy Crowe, Jimmy Groat, Sandra Capponi, Melvin Tipping, Sheryl Lindsay, Gaetan Heroux, Stan Dalton, Dr. Ty Turner, Sandra Pettey, Sean Goetz-Gadon, Martin Wright, Bob Jackson, James Froh, Ken Syrette, Peter Bruckman, Marilyn White-Campbell, Ken Davies.** Thanks to TCAH witnesses not allowed by the coroner to testify: **Dr. Eugene LeBlanc, Alison Guyton, Les Williams, Steve Lane, Tony McDonald, Mike Crawford, Eileen Shannon, Beric German, Dianne Patychuk, Ernie Lightman.**

Media co-ordination: **Michael Shapcott, Beric German, and Cathy Crowe.** Thanks for participating in press events: **Tiss Clarke, James Froh, Peter Tabuns, Michael Shapcott, Sister Susan, Jan Borovoy, Bonnie Briggs, Cathy Crowe, Don Heap, Nancy Pocock, Charles Roach.** Thanks to Bishop Terry Finlay for written support. Thanks for the fundraising: **Marilyn White-Campbell, Dorothea Fox Jacob, Alicia Odette, Terry Odette, Josie Ricciardi, Idella Sturino, Beric German, Mike Constable, Our Times, Sheila Wrabko, Vicki Meyers.**

And now, the work continues... .

The excellent recommendations from the inquest jury are not legally binding and won't be implemented unless coalition members and their allies continue the campaign against homelessness in Toronto. Already, TCAH members have met with Toronto Mayor **Barbara Hall**, presented to the City of Toronto's Alternative Housing Subcommittee and the Metro Toronto Homeless Advisory Committee. Meetings have been requested with the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, **Al Leach.**

The campaign is building! Join us at the full coalition meeting on Sept. 10 - or phone, fax or e-mail us!

For information about TCAH:

Cathy Crowe at 416-703-9511, ext. 21

Send a fax note to:

Michael Shapcott at 416-366-3876

Find us on the web at:

<http://www.competitor.net/electric/>

Or e-mail TCAH via:

mshapcot@web.net

TCAH calendar

**Steering Committee
Thursday, Sept. 5th**

**9.30 a.m. - Co-op housing offices
#207 - 2 Berkeley Street**

**Full coalition
Tuesday, Sept. 10th
2.30 p.m.
Call to confirm location**